

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

UNCLAS LONDON 09053

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV,PINT, UK

SUBJECT: WILSON REBUKES PLP LEFT-WING AND ANNOUNCES SUB-
CABINET CHANGES

REF: LONDON 8981

1. PRIME MINISTER WILSON JUNE 12 PUBLISHED STINGING REPLY
TO RECENT ATTACK BY PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY'S (PLP)
TRIBUNE GROUP OVER CABINET SHAKE-UP AND LEFT-WING'S PER-
CEIVED GOVERNMENT RETREAT FROM PARTY MANIFESTO COMMIT-
MENTS (REFTEL). ADOPTING WASPISH TONE, WILSON LABELED
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TRIBUNE ALLEGATIONS "REGRETTABLY HYSTERICAL IN TONE AND

INACCURATE IN CONTEXT" AND ASSERTED "GOVERNMENT, PARTY AND ITS LEADER HAVE REJECTED ANY ADOPTION OF COALITION POLICIES". HE ALSO REAFFIRMED COMMITMENT TO LABOR PARTY MANIFESTO: "GOVERNMENT WILL CARRY INTO REALITY THE TWO MANIFESTOS ON WHICH WE FOUGHT LAST YEAR'S ELECTIONS". GIVING THE KNIFE A FINAL TURN, WILSON CLOSED BY THANKING TRIBUNITES FOR THEIR PROMISE TO "HARNESS (THEIR) UNDENIABLE ORATORICAL AND DEBATING TALENTS" TO TASK OF IMPLEMENTING LABOR'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM.

2. WILSON ALSO ANNOUNCED ANTICIPATED SUB-CABINET CHANGES WHICH, WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS, WERE AS REPORTED IN REFTEL. ERNEST ARMSTRONG WAS NAMED ENVIRONMENT UNDERSECRETARY AND TREASURY FINANCIAL SECRETARY JOHN GILBERT WAS GIVEN TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO WHICH HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO GO TO ARMSTRONG. GILBERT'S FORMER POST AND INDUSTRY UNDERSECRETARY SLOT VACATED BY GREGOR MACKENZIE REMAIN UNFILLED.

3. COMMENT: WILSON'S UNCHARACTERISTICALLY SHARP REBUKE OF THE TRIBUNITE ATTACK UNDERSCORES HIS STRENGTHENED POLITICAL POSITION, WHILE HIS UNEQUIVOCAL ASSERTION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO HONOR ITS MANIFESTO PROGRAM TENDS TO SUPPORT ASSESSMENT CONTAINED IN REFTEL.

RICHARDSON

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